

Ad Hoc Community and Public Works Planning Committee (CAPP)
Alternative Energy Committee
December 17, 2008

A. Fischlowitz, vice chair calls the Alternative Energy Committee (AEC) to order at 10:00 am.

Present: Burke Henry, Carl Frederickson and Alan Fischlowitz

By phone: Larry Bean.

Absent: Mark Eggleston, absent.

Also present: Nick Nelson, CAPP Committee liaison

A. Fischlowitz said Kelly Randleman cannot attend this meeting.

1. Review and approval of the following minutes:

A. October 3, 2008

B. October 10, 2008

C. November 19, 2008

Motion by A. Fischlowitz to postpone and table the minutes until the next meeting.

Second, B. Henry. All in favor, three ayes, motion carried.

2. Update on Regional OEI Grant – Alan Fischlowitz, Larry Bean, Kelly Randleman (grant coordinator for the Region, she is with the Alliance for Sustainability)

A. Fischlowitz said we have the third draft of the 42 page grant application. Copied to us are the first 8 pages. There is grant money available through the Governor's Office of Energy Independence (OEI). Federal money in the amount of a half a million dollars came into the OEI to help communities with energy independence preparation, analysis and activities. A. Fischlowitz has attended meetings representing the AEC from La Pointe that include the mayors of Ashland, Bayfield and Washburn. Bay Area Rural Transit (BART) and the executives from Ashland and Bayfield counties have not attended but they are in the loop and have signed on as participants in this grant. We are the only regional consortium that has come on the 15th of December for these funds. Our request is for \$60,000. The unofficial feedback is because of what has been done on the Island and Bad River we are in a good position to receive these funds. The Alliance for Sustainability seems to be the obvious organization to put this together since this falls within their mission statement.

L. Bean said we are part of the consortium but it was planned to include us all along. We received the inquiry right from Brian Driscoll of the OEI, asking if we had been contacted by this group preparing the application. That is when I called the Alliance

A. Fischlowitz said his understanding of the grant is that the grant will allow the region to hire professional engineers and planners to establish a baseline of our energy use now. The data used for this, as shown in the pages that have been copied, will be the amount of energy used in all publicly owned buildings, properties and transportation in the regions.

L. Bean said the Governor's 25 x 25 goal is to establish a 25% reduction in the State's energy usage by 2025. We are mentioned numerous times in this publication - the smallest community leading the pack.

B. Henry asked if the grant is awarded what will we be asked to do. A. Fischlowitz said we have been asked to prepare and submit an inventory of our public vehicle use, type of fuel

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our vehicles use and an assessment of all our public buildings. Keith Sowl, Town Foreman, has been very good about sending an inventory of our vehicles to the Alliance. Also needed is state and federal energy usage.

L. Bean said it is critical that the Alliance hire the appropriate contractors and he believes Seventh Generation is one of these. There is a lot of work to be done in a year. L. Bean is concerned about overload of the community, since the community held several meetings in regards to the Comprehensive Plan a few years ago. B. Henry thought the zoning rewrites as compared to the Comp plan are a bigger concern.

A. Fischlowitz said the money will be used to hire the contractors and we will be given the contractors our guidance. B. Henry said that finding out how much fuel we use in publicly owned vehicles can be found in less than a month. L. Bean said they want to find out how much the entire region uses for gasoline, diesel fuel, propane, natural gas, coal and oil so they can figure out how to displace it. Question if that data could be used to find out the number and amount of fuel that is used in the private sector for transportation and to heat buildings.

L. Bean does not know, but at the end of the year there will be a collection of data to get it to the 25 x 25 initiative. A. Fischlowitz said once the data is submitted he does not see the committee or the island spending much time on this. This is a diversion from our principal goal of energy independence for the island. L. Bean said that was very well said. The island will benefit with the work of others. The Alliance will keep us updated and continue to coordinate with other communities. Agreement that people need to see what is being done.

3. Update on Bob Owen & SODAR project and funding – Larry Bean

L. Bean said he talked to Bob Owen, consulting engineer and meteorologist last week. Bob said he has a \$3,000 commitment from Xcel Energy to be spent on a matching basis. He submitted a formal proposal to Brian Driscoll of the OEI and has not heard the result. L. Bean offered to make a call in support of his project and also suggested that Bob contact Don Wikart (sp), a point person with Focus on Energy as a possible funding source. He has not talked to Don in this context. SODAR can be discussed next month when there might be more information available.

4. Tower Data (acquisition/use/distribution) – Burke Henry, Mark Eggleston.

Mark Eggleston is not at the meeting.

The temperature data cannot be read. A. Fischlowitz will find out who to contact about this. B. Henry said everyone except Bob Owen has been sent a quick summary for the month. L. Bean suggested that it be sent to Bob Owen.

B. Henry devised a program to convert the power we would get from a Vestus 660 with the given wind speeds how much energy we would produce. Based on the 10 minute average, for the month of November we would have produced 73,000kw hours - \$8800. Discussion if this data should be given out. C. Frederickson thinks it is a good idea. A. Fischlowitz said we are not ready. L. Bean said what is acceptable would come from meteorologist Bob Owen, so he would be cautious. B. Henry said the only questionable data would be the conversion to kw hours. He realizes that Bob Owen has to publish the data but what about publishing that we had an average 12 mph wind in November at the state park? L. Bean suggests asking Bob Owen because he will ultimately decide what we have or do not have. B. Henry will send Bob Owen his spreadsheet.

5. Plans for the coming year – Larry Bean

L. Bean said there are new tax benefits on January 1st for renewables, both commercial and residential and there should be an announcement in regards to this. He will call

Focus on Energy to come up with a development plan. We need to ask M. Eggleston about the Endangered Species Inventory. The cost to do this is \$20/hr with a minimum of \$50. Shari Koslowsky, Conservation Biologist is the DNR contact. L. Bean will email M. Eggleston in regards to the inventory and copy the committee. Consensus of the committee to start the process.

A. Fischlowitz said he had a call from Jerry Zifco who is one of the three largest contractors in Minnesota. He has started a new division aimed at Alternative Energy projects for places like a college campus or small community as opposed to wind farms and would like to talk to us. L. Bean said David Blecker, Executive Director, Seventh Generation did talk about doing the development. Short discussion if Seventh Generation is a 501(c)(3) organization. A. Fischlowitz thought they were consultants. B. Henry said the people putting up the tower said they also install turbines. A. Fischlowitz will check to see if Seventh Generation is a developer and if they are a 501(c)(3) organization. There is also Eco Energy we met while in Madison but they are postponing or not interested in this project.

L. Bean said the American Wind Energy Association has its annual meeting in Chicago in May and he is trying to see if some of his former contacts might pay his way. There would be developers there who might be interested in our project. Wind energy is growing at 45%/year.

6. Newsletter Plans? – Carl Frederickson

C. Frederickson would like to set up question/answer column in the next Gazette as there have been questions already. Agreement to answer the questions as soon as possible. Information could also be included for alternative systems such as Dan Schuppe's use of wood as there is good supply of blow downs on the island. He needs to get up to date on geothermal energy and talk to local mechanical contractors and also re-visit a system highly suggested by NSP (now Xcel) that used heat sync in residential construction. There is also the LEED thought – Learning Efficient Environmental Design which reuses materials and has a sustainable approach to construction of all types.

A. Fischlowitz would like as many email addresses that the newsletter could be sent to. The Town website is supposed to coming soon, and that could include letters to the Gazette, the charts used at the Library presentation as well as photographs as the AEC is to have a space on the Town's website. The AEC should be proactive – email newsletter on a monthly basis, a paper sent out quarterly, and something in the Gazette that would take them to the website.

7. Additional Hardware – Burke Henry

A weather system that includes the measurement of air pressure and wind can be purchased for around \$100. This system has the software to put the data on the computer. This is ready to be ordered. A. Fischlowitz talked to Seventh Generation about a solar unit and Seventh Generation said they could buy the instrument and they would send instruction to install it as well as an ok for the installation. B. Henry was concerned that we would violate Seventh Generations warranty should something go wrong as the solar would have to go through the data box at the tower. B. Henry said he could install it if it is not too cold. L. Bean asks about cost. A. Fischlowitz will get the cost in writing and then will compare to buying direct. There was a motion at the 11/19/08 meeting to buy the weather station and the perinometer (measures solar). This has not been done as of yet (due to Thanksgiving). We will install the equipment.

8. Other Business

B. Henry will write the final report for the Apostle Islands Area Community Fund (AIACF) grant before the end of December. The report is due the end of January. L. Bean will mail the outline from the grant we received for \$25000 as a guideline of what is to be included in the final report. L. Bean will be glad to help in any way.

9. Set Next Meeting

Agreement to set the date for the next meeting on January 21, 2009 at 10:00 am at the Town Hall.

10. Adjourn

Motion by B. Henry to adjourn, second, C. Frederickson. All in favor, three ayes.
Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned about 10:50 am.

Minutes taken from tape and respectfully submitted by Kathy Erickson, Clerical Assistant.

Minutes approved as presented February 17, 2009